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**Happy haunting**
See story on page 2.

**Belinda Gallagher shares wisdom.**
See story on pages 4 and 5.

**Hard to choose**
See editorial on page 6.

Highlands residents Alya Demuth, from left, and Bethany Houghton, who are lit by the afternoonlight Nordic ski at Glebe Park on Tuesday, Feb. 16 in Haliburton. The trail network, which includes 13.5 groomed skate and classic skiing, is located minutes from the village of Haliburton and are maintained by volunteers. It is part of The Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trail and Ski Club Association. See www.skihaliburton.com for more information. /Submitted by Vivian Collings

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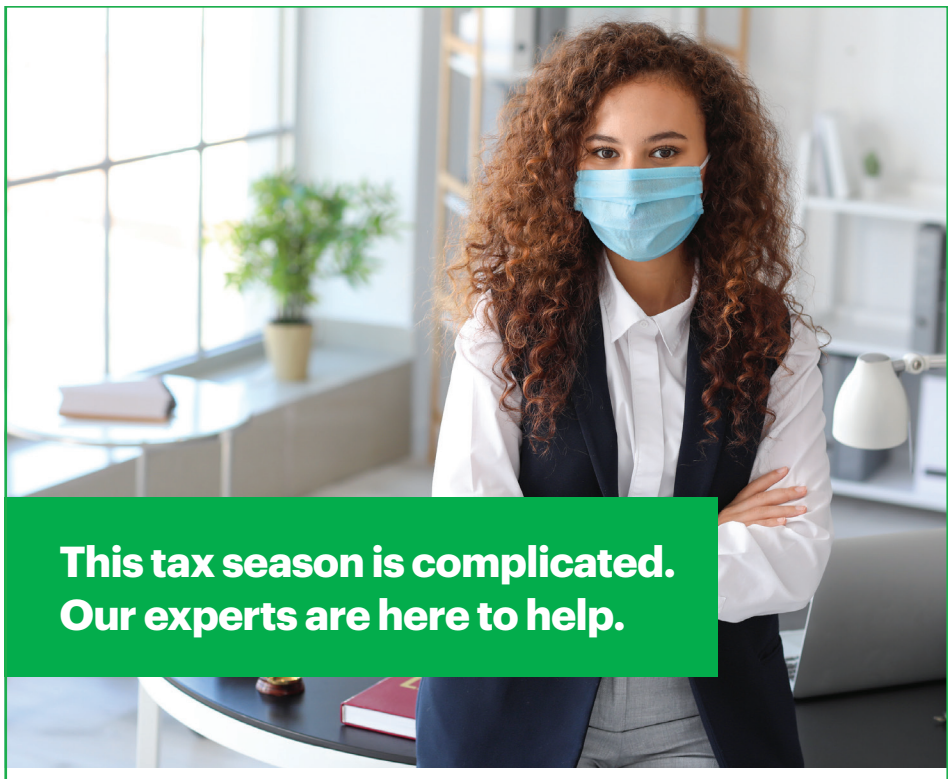


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For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

The "Old Crone." /Submitted by Janet Trull

# The Old Crone

JANET TRULL

*Special to the Echo*

My friend is gone.

I rounded the bend where she has been a committed sentinel at a particular curve of the forest path. Down the hill, alongside the brook, just before the bridge.

The first time I saw her, I recognized her as a favourite tree in a huge forest of trees. The Old Crone, I called her. With two deep eye sockets, compliments of a woodpecker, she was like a crooked old hag in a fairy tale, bent with age, but still capable of casting a spell on woodland creatures who dared defy her. She stood vigil in all seasons, with a skirt of fiddleheads in spring, covered in mushrooms in fall, weighted with snow in winter. She had a big cavity that a wise owl might sit in, and branches that appeared to reach up toward the sky like beseeching arms.

Even when I first discovered her, the tree was long dead. It had been many years since leaves had clothed her limbs. And I am grateful for the thing she taught me, that the dead continue to communicate with their own special brand of resilience. When other trees blew over in wind storms or fell under the weight of ice, the Old Crone seemed protected somehow.

But the years took their toll. She lost appendages. Her bark peeled off. Her hollowed interior widened so that a young child could stand inside.

Last summer, as I walked along the brook, listening to it churning down the stoney gully, I saw the soft remains of a stump covered in lichen and knew that the Old Crone had crumbled at last. I crouched down and sifted some of her fine remains through fingers which were not so young as they once were. Which, one day, would be dust such as this.

The forest floor is a harmonious carpet of the dead and the living. Trees have their time, struggling toward sunlight, bent over in the wind, crippled by disease, and then they die. But they do not go anywhere. They are not tidied up into cemeteries or crematoriums. They change. Feeding the next generation, sheltering animals and insects. A messy forest is a productive one.

The curve in the forest trail remains, curling around the ghost of the Old Crone. Happy haunting, old friend.

# What's left of winter?

THE GROUNDHOG has told us that spring will come early this year. While some are rejoicing at the return of songbirds and flowing sap, others are already mourning the days of sub-zero temperatures and blustery snowfalls.

In the tourism industry, one question we get asked a lot is "how much longer can I do winter activities?"

Long story short, we have no idea. We of course only run experiences for as long as it is safe to do so, but with the unpredictability of weather patterns these days, it's always hard to pin-point the duration of the season.

**EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*Special to County Life*

This winter - though feeling like it was off to a slow start - has been one for the books. As a wintery recap, we can say with confidence that we have never seen so many people looking for adventure in our neck of the woods, and it is our recommendation that this drive for new experiences continues as long as possible.

Some of our fan favourites this year have been ice climbing, ice fishing, and snowshoeing. For ice climbing, Yours Outdoors partners up with Elements Guiding, led by Lorne Foisy to scale a natural ice wall. While most time slots are full for February, Lorne hopes to be climbing until March 20, depending on the weather. If a natural wall isn't your cup of ice, there is also the option to climb Ontario's largest human-made ice wall at Medeba. This 15-metre wall is good for both beginner belayers and the experienced climbing enthusiast.

Ice fishing this year has been happening primarily based out of the Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve, which is led by Steve Lukacic. With this program, you really get to choose your own adventure. It could be a half day or a full day. You could snowshoe in or snowmobile in. You can have a cook-out on the lake, or head into The Cookhouse for a hot meal. This program primarily centres around the sustainability of fishing at the Forest, and the educational component of this great sport.

Snowshoeing has been making new tracks all winter. With options for a basic snowshoe and interpretive hike, to a three-hour forest bathing snowshoe and yoga session, there's something for everyone. Yours Outdoors has really leaned into history and snowshoeing this year, with Fur and Flintlock focusing on the fur trade to snowshoeing into Canada's past to see one of the largest collections of heritage snowshoes.

We truly have no idea how long winter will last, but we do know that we need to make the most of the chilly days while we have them. If you are interested in booking but feeling weary of the weather, don't stress, Yours Outdoors offers a full refund if the conditions are not suitable for the experience.

Winter days may be thawing out, but it's not too late for an adventure. Check out www.yoursoutdoors.ca to book yours.

Two first time climbers Aurelie Gilles, from left, and Olivia Paszkowski celebrate after scaling the highest human-made wall in Ontario, located at Camp Medeba minutes from West Guilford. Ice climbing can be booked through Yours Outdoors. Submitted by Emily Stonehouse.

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Columbines are short-lived perennials

# PLANTS 101: ‘Love me tender perennials’

YOU ARE CORRECT. I am paying homage to Elvis Presley, whose movies seem to be running on an endless loop this winter.His 1956 song featured in my title is the perfect lead-in to a discussion of plants that don’t fit neatly into the annual, biennial, perennial categories that were discussed in my last column.

BELINDA GALLAGHER
Garden Musings

Anyone visiting a garden centre or big box store will see plants nicely grouped for ease of shopping. Even a novice gardener can spot the tree and shrub area, but the remaining plant sections can hold some surprises. Let’s take a deeper dive.

One reader asked about perennial lupines.

“I have tried several years to grow native lupines - those spikey purple flowers that are so plentiful on the roadsides here in Haliburton County. But they only last two or three years in my garden and then they die. What am I doing wrong?”

The short answer is, You are doing nothing wrong. Lupines fall into a category called short-lived perennials. While ‘short-lived’ isn’t a botanical term, it does describe a plant that, unlike true perennials, will only thrive for three to five seasons. A number of popular garden plants fall into this category – columbine, delphinium, blanket flower (Gaillardia), our native swamp vervain (Verbena hastata) and some Black-eyed Susans (Rudbeckia hirta). Often these showy bloomers will set lots of seed and you will find self-sown plants elsewhere in your garden.

I always find that these ‘volunteer’ plants (the term my Mother used for self-sown seedlings) pick the spots where they are happier so I just leave them to grow. There is a beautiful swath of purple lupines on the side of the road across from the Head Lake outflow. They must have been self-seeding there for many years as there are volunteers of several ages in the stand.

Another outlier category is sub-shrubs. Defined as dwarf plants with a woody base and soft stems, there are only a few to watch for in a garden centre. The most grown is lavender followed by Russian sage (Perovskia), wormwood (Artemesia) and rock rose (Helianthemum). Several of the herbs – oregano, rosemary, sage and thyme are also sub-shrubs as are fuchsias but these are routinely grown as annuals.

The reason we need to recognize a sub-shrub is that the soft, herbaceous tops do not harden off for winter so will die back. New growth will come in the spring from the woody parts of the plant. It is important that you wait to see new growth before pruning and restrict any pruning to the new soft stems. A late season pruning (after flowering but before cold weather) will also keep the plants from getting too leggy.

Finally, lets look at the annual section of a garden centre, which should contain annuals - those plants that last only a single season. There you will find vibrant zinnias and marigolds, fragrant alysum and blousy cosmos. Strangely, most of the plants we consider annuals are actually tender

**see page 5**

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## Legion Events

**Branch 129 Haliburton**

**Tuesday night:** Dart League starting at 7 p.m.

**Wednesdays**: Bingo doors open at 5 p.m.
Bingo starts at 7 p.m. with a $500 jackpot.

**Thursdays**: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.

**Fridays:** Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Six tickets for $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.

**Saturdays:** 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available from 2 p.m. and onwards.

*Whether you’re planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rcl129@outlook.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!*

*** New club room hours:**
**Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/ Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m . Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.**

**Schedule is subject to change without notice, so contact the Legion for updates.**

The beauty of Lupins doesn't last forever, but when they bloom they're a sight to see. Photos submitted by Belinda Gallagher.

Lupins are coming.

# Tender perennials bring colour, indoor option

**from page 4**

perennials, plants that would live for several seasons but don't due to our ferocious winters. Hanging baskets often contain colourful petunias, impatiens, million bells or geraniums – all perennials in their native habitats.

The average gardener, looking for a blaze of summer colour, cares less about the life cycle than the number and frequency of blooms. Enter the tender perennials. These plants from warmer climates have been selected from species that naturally bloom a long time. With a bit of pruning (pinching the tips and removing spent blossoms) and some slow-release fertilizer you can have an entire season of colour.

An extra bonus from a tender-perennial is the option to take cuttings to grow indoors and with some luck have plants for the next year. My grandmother saved a 'Mother plant' red geranium for years, carefully snipping 10 to 12 centimetres, pieces that she rooted in a water glass. These small plants would be babied through the winter and set out in late spring. It was the most economical way to have colour from year-to-year.

Nowadays, we are much too busy, so we let the growers do the cuttings and the raising of plants. We merely hit the garden centers at full speed to select the annuals, perennials, biennials, and 'others' that will make our yards beautiful. In the immortal words of Elvis, "Rock-a-hula, Baby!!!"

Next time we'll explore COLD hardiness. This feature is an ongoing limited series.

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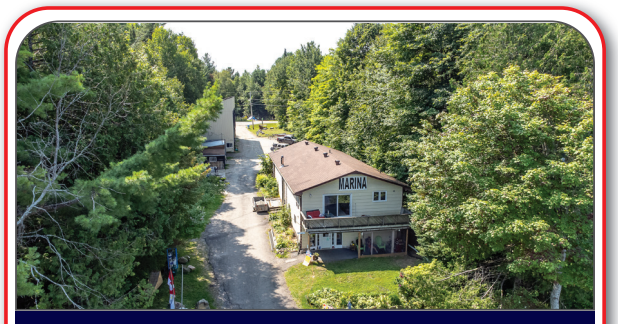


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## Favourite things

**KATE BUTLER**
*Haliburton Highlands Muesum*

ASKING SOMEONE who works in a museum which item from the collection is their favourite is pretty much akin to asking a parent about their favourite child. At the Haliburton Highlands Museum, we have thousands and thousands of items which tell the story of our community, and each one tells a tale of not only the people who made these items, but also the people who used them. Some of these stories are dramatic, some are quirky and some provide insights which might otherwise have been lost.

One item with a story that often captures the minds of our visitors is the printing press from the *Haliburton County Echo*, which survived a fire in the 1940s. It's not a full-size printing press, but a job press, which might have been used to print advertisements, flyers and the like, and it was probably only its relatively diminutive size that meant it could be saved. It might seem surprising to us today to take time to drag a printing press out into the street when there was an imminent threat of fire, but in addition to being part of the livelihood of the paper, it was also a vital means of communication at a time when people didn't have computers in their homes and smartphones in their pockets.

If the printing press makes a big impression, there's another item in our collection that takes a bit of examination to reveal its story. It's a key fob, which belonged to John Russell Reid, whose family home is now part of the museum. It's a personalized key chain, but it's inscribed with "Read," not "Reid." We think he may have picked it up at a local fair or a similar event, and clearly in the hustle and bustle, some information got lost. Sometimes I wonder if he realized right away or perhaps just popped it in a pocket, only seeing the typo when he got home. And what did he say when he did spot it? It's a testament to his "waste not, want not" attitude that he used it nonetheless!

A key fob might seem like a fleeting bit of history, but some of the other items in our collection are wonders to have even survived. These include such things as bits of stationery from local businesses, flyers for local events and brochures. One which always captures my imagination is a brochure from the Royal Koo-shog Hotel. The hotel stood on the shores of Head Lake for only a few scant years in the early 1920s. Without this rather humble looking brochure, there's so much we might not know about the hotel and about the amenities it offered. Reading through it is a chance to step back in time and discover what it was like to vacation in the Haliburton Highlands 100 years ago.

The items in our collection also have the power to spark memories and family stories from our visitors and to connect those visitors with each other. The wood stoves in our collection often evoke stories of a grandparent who was born prematurely and whose life may have been saved by the heat of a similar stove. Even a recent history item like a vintage snowmobile can spark a flurry of nostalgia as visitors reminisce about how heavy the old machines were and tell stories of adventures on the trails.

The Haliburton Highlands Museum is now back open to visitors and we look forward to welcoming you soon! When you do stop by, I'd love to hear which item on display is your favourite, but if you can't decide on just one, I completely understand!

## Top 10 reasons they no longer send monkeys into space

IF YOU REMEMBER your history, there was a time when some countries sent monkeys into space. Most of us assumed this stopped when we found it was safe to send humans. But I happen to believe there were other, more practical reasons why this practice was abandoned. My top 10 are:

**STEVE GALEA**
Humour Columnist

1. Feces throwing got a little out of hand.
2. Tire swing took up too much space.
3. Didn't want to create conditions for some freak *Planet of the Apes* scenario.
4. They are now all working for the greeting card industry.
5. Done all the "bananas in space" tests possible.
6. Not one of them is a billionaire.
7. Russians will then try to win the space race using doped monkeys.
8. Horrible at fixing satellites.
9. Not the right kind of role model.
10. They remember last time.

**Woodpecker spotted**

Area photographer captured a female hairy woodpecker. Krisko's work is part of the Rails End Gallery's annual Salon Exhibition POV show held in Haliburton. The exhibition is on until April 2. /Submitted by June Krisko

## *Emerging*

Something with a rhyme just now
Told me to walk outside.
It's been a tired winter
And my new boots hardly tried
To navigate those hilly paths
The hikers dearly know.
Yet some pals still use weary tread
Despite bewitching snow.

Quite like the northern terrapins
Still buried underground
We too emerge from giant sleeps
Once spring beguiles with sound.
Symphonies like Narnia
Stir up our stunted souls.
Choruses of tree frogs
Will spark joy and fresh tadpoles.

I, whose life's been low and still
Can soon dig out real shoes
And rediscover sound and stride.
Let breeze eclipse my blues
Too long I've peered out windows
Too long I've sat inside
What whispers to me now from trees
Is heart rate simplified.

*Deborah J Reed*

## Making tracks

A sledder leaves the parking area in Head Lake Park on Sunday, Feb. 13 in Haliburton. There are 370 kilometres of trails available to ride in the Highlands through the efforts of the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association. See the website hcsa.ca for more inforamtion on trail status and conditions. /DARREN LUM Staff

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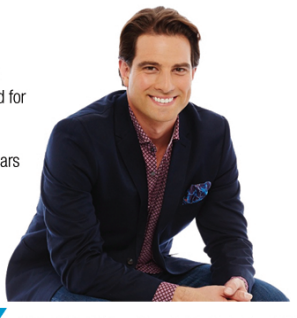

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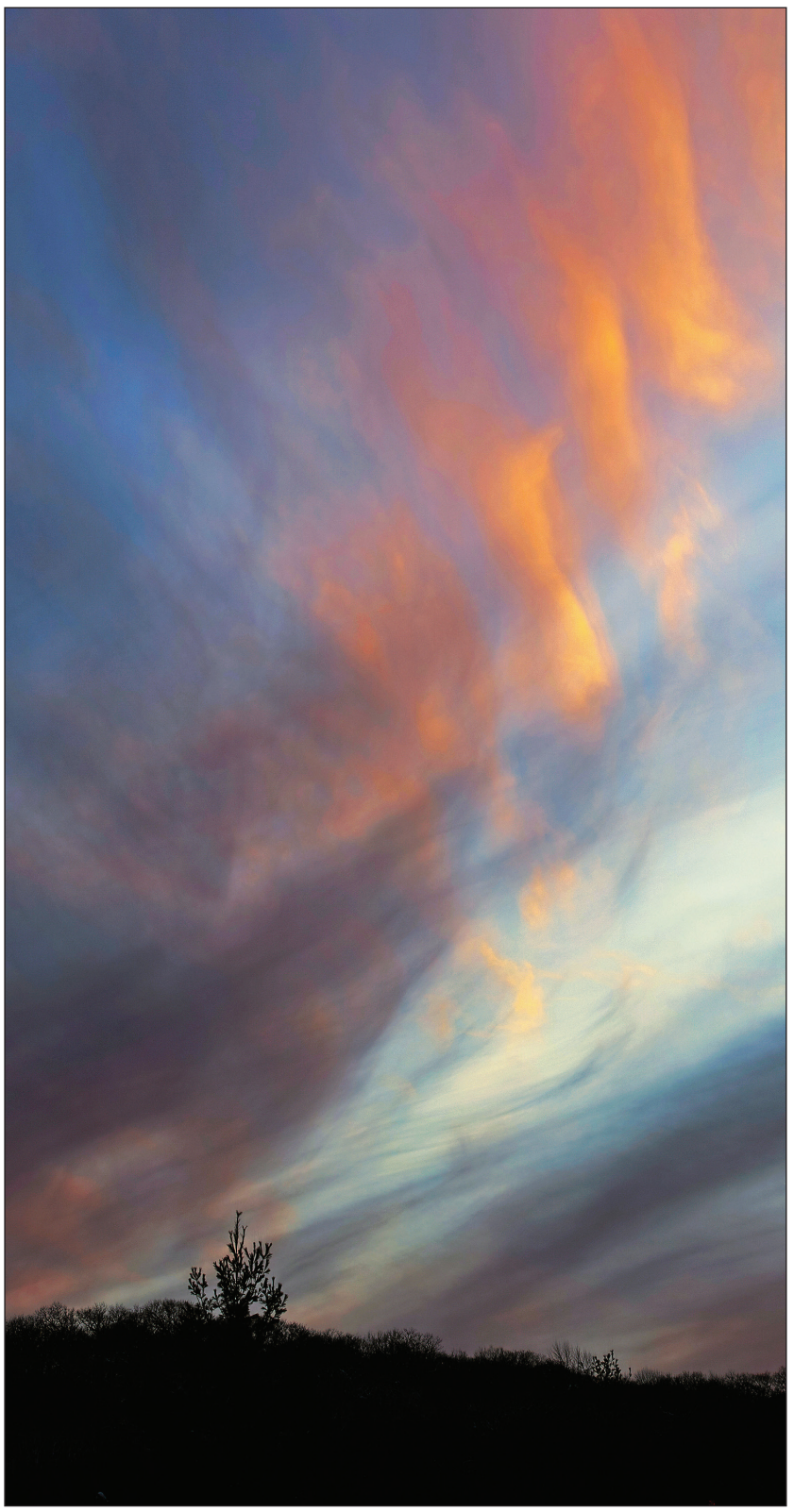
# Local Landmark Mystery

Local landmark reveal: steam engine 2616 located in the village of Haliburton. This familiar landmark was first placed in Haliburton in October of 1960. It was presented to the community by the Canadian National Railways and the Rotary Club of Haliburton. Built in 1911 in Schenectady, New York, the engine was in active service until it made it's last trip from Lindsay to Belleville in 1959. Notably, this engine never missed a day of service due to mechanical failure in it's last 30 years of service. We all wish we had cars that performed like that! The engine continues to be maintained by the Rotary Club of Haliburton and stands as a tribute to the importance of the railway in the development of this area. Haliburton was the "end of the line" for the Victoria Railway that extended from Linday to Haliburton. Conflicts over the subsidies to maintain the line ultimately led to the political formation of Haliburton County when 23 townships seceded to form the county. Until the railway was built, goods had to be moved south either by waterway or in wagons along very rough roads. The corridor of that railway remains an important year-round tourism resource. Republished with permission from Thom Lambert, who originally posted this to his Instagram page myhaliburtonhighlands for County of Haliburton Tourism. /FILE DARREN LUM Staff

The following are images of a local landmark. Try to guess what the landmark is and see in the next week's *County Life* for the reveal. Concept and images from Thom Lambert, who has informative posts about things to see and do in the Highlands through Myhaliburtonhighlands on Instagram. /Submitted by Thom Lambert



**Winter waves**
Sunset in the Highlands. Submitted by Tammy Nash.

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**Canadian Federation of University Women**
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## Hudak hits Haliburton

Provincial PC leader meets with chamber of commerce

3

## Spreading the word

Meet new priest for Minden and Kinmount

5

**Ready to rock**

Young curlers sweep, practising during the Junior Curling Program offered at and by the Minden Curling Club, which will be hosting hundreds of curlers from across the province during the Timbits Ontario Elementary School Provincial Championships from March 31 to April 3 at the club and the S.G. Nesbitt Arena in Minden. See page 19 for more photos.

**Darren Lum** Times staff

# Oxtongue Lake to get high-speed

**Chad Ingram**
Staff reporter

Residents of Oxtongue Lake who want high-speed Internet should get it some time this spring.

At a March 3 meeting, Algonquin Highlands councillors gave the go-ahead for the construction of a communication tower in the small community at the northern tip of the township.

Last month, councillors were visited by Michel Potvin of Huntsville's 4Pairless Communications Inc. who expressed his interest in building an Internet tower in the resort community.

At that meeting, Potvin had said there was overwhelming support for the project, but councillors requested he return with a specific list of people and whether or not they were in favour.

While Potvin did not bring such a list last week, Reeve Carol Moffatt noted that the matter had been addressed in an email circulated among the members of the Oxtongue Lake Association, on which she had been copied.

"Those who did respond . . . overwhelmingly were in favour," Moffatt said, adding the response to the association email was proof enough for her the project was desired by the

see RESIDENTS page 17

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## TWELVE MILE LAKE ROAD $1,995,000

**A RARE FIND!** 1677 feet of frontage and 6+ acres fronting on both beautiful Twelve Mile Lake and Little Boshkung Lake. This point lot is totally private and takes in multiple exposures and has stunning lake views. The historic "Strathcona Lodge" was located here. The original foundation is still present and has the potential to be built on. Two small historic cabins are also on the subject property. Don't miss this opportunity to build your dream home or getaway on one of the most peaceful settings in Haliburton County.
Price is plus HST

## IRONDALE RIVER $695,000

Indulge in peace and serenity with this stunning extensively renovated, open concept four season riverfront dream home or cottage getaway. Vaulted ceilings, windows with a view and white-washed pine walls, this welcoming space is filled with natural sunlight. Incredible sunset views lead to cozy evenings entertaining in the new gourmet kitchen or unwinding with a view in the soaker tub. There is plenty of room to accommodate guests with the den in use as a 3rd bedroom. Walkout to the deck and multiple seating areas will greet you with plenty of privacy and beautiful landscaping on this well treed lot.

## UNICORN ROAD $549,000

Your opportunity for a secluded, peaceful off grid Haliburton retreat is here! This 237 acres is the perfect destination to enjoy nature's natural beauty. Fantastic trails throughout the property. Nestled amongst the trees with a tranquil view of one of the many ponds, is a cute 22 x 22 cabin. The wood finishings throughout creates a warm and cozy feeling. Settle in and warm up in front of the wood burning stove. 24 x 24 detached garage is the ideal building to store all of your year round toys. Quick access to amenities in Haliburton Village and cell service throughout the property keeps you in the loop while enjoying your escape from the hustle and bustle.

## KAWAGAMA LAKE $279,000

Stunning south views across the lake. This property has a fantastic shoreline of mixed sand/gravel gradual entry to the water. Hydro is at the lot line and there is good cell service. This is easily accessible from either marina on the lake. Enjoy this affordable lot in the summer while you make your plans for your new cottage. Great fishing year-round and fantastic snowmobiling in the winter.

## NEW LISTING

## BEECH RIVER $1,190,000

Enjoy the tranquility of Beech river for swimming, fishing, canoeing and kayaking. Or take a minute to boat ride into Big Boshkung Lake, a 3 lake chain comprised of Big Boshkung, Little Boshkung and Twelve Mile Lake in Algonquin Highlands. This is a beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath with rough in for 3rd bathroom in the basement. 2540 sq ft finished and 1425 sq ft partially finished walkout basement. This home was built in 2017 with wood siding and energy efficient ICF foundation. This could be your year round home or cottage located in a fabulous area of fine homes and 175ft of waterfront. Open concept main floor with soaring cathedral ceilings in living room with expansive views and gorgeous 2 sided propane fireplace (waiting for your finishing touches on the fireplace). Large kitchen with room for all to join in. Dining area with 2 walk outs to a large deck. From the living room enter a lovely sitting room with another walk out to deck. Main floor bedroom with double closets and a full bathroom in the foyer complete this floor. Upstairs you will find 2 very large bedrooms with Juliette balconies, full bathroom and cozy loft family room with 2nd propane fireplace overlooking the living room with views to the waterfront. The partially finished basement has 2 walkouts and woodstove. Perfect to create your own "staycation". Fully enclosed with glass, the hot tub room has a 6-8 person hot tub (never used), with rough in for wet bar. Add a projection screen and pool table and you are set! In floor heating on all 3 floors, and on demand hot water. Take a stroll down to the waterfront where you will find a lovely sitting deck in the shade on the shoreline, or sit in the full sun on the dock. This home requires some finishings to complete for final occupancy and is being sold "as is where is" condition.

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